

Families have new cemetery options

Selectmen approve rules for markers, columbarium

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Because families are changing the way their members are buried, the town's cemetery rules have been changed.

On Monday, selectmen approved two minor changes to the cemetery rules and regulations requested by cemetery superintendent Patricia Pappas and the cemetery board of trustees in order to better serve their customers and protect the town.

Pappas explained that for years, only one flush marker — a grave marker flat to the ground — was allowed per gravesite. But with an increased number of people choosing cremation, she said more families are opting to be buried in one gravesite. Whereas four cremated persons can be buried in one gravesite, it is hard to put all the family names on one marker. "We decided to change it to have two markers on a single grave," she said.

The second change was to the columbarium niche wall rules, where a section was added on columbarium engravings. The columbarium wall was redone last year, and additional space was added to the back portion of the wall.

The cemetery department added a bronze plaque to sit on the front

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Patricia Pappas

of the columbarium, allowing for families to have their own monument dealer engrave the wall, Pappas said. Under the new rules, the monument dealers and their employees will responsible for any

mistakes or damages done to the wall.

"If subcontractors come in and do engravings and they did it wrong, they would be responsible for replacing the whole panel,"

Pappas said. "It is an added security for the town, something new that we have never done. We felt we it needed it as security for the town."

Surname lettering cannot exceed 1 1/2 inches in height, and all other lettering, including birth and death dates, cannot be taller than one inch. All letterings must be engraved using the Classic Roman font, and no more than six lines will be allowed in the 12- by 12-inch space. All engraving must be approved prior to placement.